

What Families Should Know About DD Services

It is important for ITP to inform families up front that applying for Medicaid developmental disabilities (DD) services is an important step in preparing their child and family for the future. Applying for DD services in no way impacts a child's Part C early intervention services; the ITP provides needed early intervention regardless of a child's eligibility for Medicaid.

Why should families enroll?

Taking the step to enroll in Medicaid DD services early on will:

1) Prepare the family for the future.

It is a very different process once their child turns three and ages out of ITP. Starting early with the Medicaid DD process will help parents gain an understanding of Medicaid services so they know what to expect and can plan for their child's transition out of ITP.

2) Gain access to additional services not offered by ITP.

Respite and habilitative supports are services the family could receive from a DD provider that would not otherwise be available through ITP.

3) Ensure a child's services will not drop off when they turn three.

ITP provides services to eligible children birth to three years of age regardless of Medicaid eligibility. However, at age three ITP services are no longer available. Children's DD services are not provided until the child is determined eligible and has an authorized plan of service. The child would not have access to services during the enrollment process, which could take up to a few months.

4) Help ITP continue to receive Medicaid funding for services, so the program can continue to provide early intervention services to children in Idaho.

The ITP is identified as the payer of last resort based on Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and was designed to rely on other funding streams to support the program. Therefore, ITP relies greatly on Medicaid funding to ensure a sustainable program.

What happens when the child exits the program at age three?

When a child turns three years of age, services are only available if the child has enrolled in Medicaid DD services and completed the planning process. This is different from ITP where every child is served regardless of health coverage. Families are at risk of losing services if they have not taken the steps to apply for Medicaid DD benefits.

Applying for DD services helps families plan for the future by knowing if their child will qualify for Medicaid DD services and what types of benefits will be available to them. It also provides for a smooth transition for the family by being familiar with the process and established with the program.

Resources:

- DD Services Family Packet